The new Corporation, which would be known as Housing Promotion Finance Corporation Pvt. Ltd. (HPFC) will be headquartered in Calcutta and will initially concentrate its activities in the Eastern and North Eastern region of the country. The company would initially raise a capital of Rs. 5 crores. State Bank of India Capital Markets Limited (SBICAP) and Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC) have proposed to take up shares of Rs. 1 crore each and balance of Rs 3 crores is proposed to be raised from Life Insurance Corporation (LIC), Unit Trust of India (UTI), General Insurance Corporation of India (GICI) and other well known companies.

Diversification of Activities by the Peerless General Finance and Investment Co. Ltd.

138. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the Peerless General Finance and Investment Company management is contemplating to enter into new ventures by diversifying its activities and by utilising the assets of the parent organisation; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposed diversification and the reaction of the Central Government to such a move ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and to the extent available will be laid on the Table of the House.

Impact of new textile policy on textile Industry

139. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that more than 30,000 textile workers recently demonstrated to protest against the failure of the new textile policy and also against large scale smuggling of foreign synthetic textiles;

(b) what is the estimated capacity utilisation of the organised textile sector, powerloom sector and handloom sector at present;

(c) what is the latest figure of the closed textile mills available with Government and the number of workers rendered unemployed due to closure of mills; and

(d) what are the details of the measures undertaken by Government to prevent closure and sickness of textile mills during the last one year ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Yes, Sir. Government are aware of a demonstration by Textile workers in Bombay on 2nd February, 1988.

(b) The capacity utilisation in respect of installed spindles and looms in the organised mill sector during April-October, 1987 is estimated 72 per cent and 61 per cent respectively. In view of decentralised and unorganised nature of the handloom and powerloom sectors, no precise figure of capacity utilisation in these sectors is available.

(c) As on 31-12-87, 133 cotton textile mills involving about 1.71 lakh workers were lying closed in the country.

(d) Important steps taken by Government for ensuring viability of the textile industry include monitoring of sickness, setting up of a Nodal Agency to examine sick textile mills in order to ascertain whether they are viable or not, institutional assistance to sick but potentially viable units, setting up of the Textile Modernisation Fund, Allowing fuller flexibility in the use of fibres, lifting of ban on expansion in the weaving capacity of the mill industry, suspension of cotton export in view of the presently ruling high cotton prices, import of cotton against export of cotton yarn, cotton fabrics and made-up on advance licensing basis.

Evasion of Central Taxes

140. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the estimated evasion of taxes imposed by the Central Government